

Washington, DC-Thursday, Congressman Harry Teague attended the signing ceremony for the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act, HR 1016, to provide Advanced Appropriations for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Congressman Harry Teague signed on to the legislation as an original cosponsor. A member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Congressman Teague offered the following statement applauding the signing:

“From my first months in Congress, I have advocated for advanced appropriations for the VA because the medical needs of our veterans should never be subject to delayed funding. We should not lapse in our care for our veterans when they never lapsed in the defense of our country. They have served their country and provided us the security we often take for granted, and we owe them the support and services they need -- including health care. This law will provide a predictable and on-time funding source, which will help ensure sufficient, timely and predictable funding to get the men and women who have served our country the care and benefits they need.”

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act authorizes Congress to approve veterans' medical care funding one year in advance to better anticipate, and meet the demand for, veterans' health care services. The advanced funding will give the VA up to a full year to plan for the most effective and efficient way of delivering medical care.

Advanced appropriations have been endorsed by virtually every major veterans and military service organization, including the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, AMVETS, the Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the American Legion.

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